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E. Willis
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Attorney Docket No. 05014/0002

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenichi IGA et al. Group Art Unit: 2874
Serial No.: 09/717,733 Examiner: Not Assigned
Filed: November 21, 2000
For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL FIBER
SPLICING**

February 14, 2002

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Applicants respectfully submit this Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 CFR. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 in order to comply with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR. § 1.56.

The enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A lists five (5) references of which Applicants are aware. The listed patents were cited in a Search Report prepared by the European Patent Office in a corresponding European application.

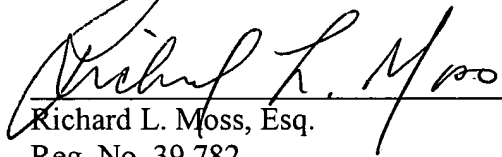
A copy of each of the listed references is enclosed. Applicants respectfully request that the listed references be made of record in this application. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Of the five (5) references listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A, one (1) is not in the English language - namely, FR 2,660,442. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(i) and (ii), a copy of the English translation of the Abstract of FR 2,660,442 is enclosed for consideration by the Examiner.

The citation or characterization of any reference in this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that such reference is necessarily relevant or is prior art.

The above papers are being submitted before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, no fee is believed due. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overcharge to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard L. Moss", is written over a horizontal line.

Richard L. Moss, Esq.

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" within under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

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